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# CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID helps prevent of HIV and other acquired infections in Kyrgyzstan**

On the eve of the World AIDS Day, U.S. Ambassador in the Kyrgyz Republic Tatiana Gfoeller has officially handed over a donation of medical supplies from the American people to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health on November 26. The supplies, procured by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will help Kyrgyzstan improve HIV/AIDS prevention and control among children following the 2007-2008 pediatric HIV outbreak in Osh Oblast.

In total, USAID will have provided nearly \$0.5 million- worth of supplies and technical assistance to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health in dealing with the outbreak and improving prevention of HIV/AIDS and other infections in the country's medical facilities. The donation includes 40,000 HIV/AIDS kits that hospitals in the south region will use to test all young children admitted to hospitals. Such action was recently mandated in an order by the Ministry of Health to prevent HIV/AIDS spread. Children wards of the south region and Bishkek city health care facilities will also receive about 2-3 years supply (4,000 units) of subclavian catheters to protect the children from acquiring infections.

In addition, USAID helped train 380 doctors and nurses from the Republican Clinical Hospital, other key clinics in Bishkek City and Osh Oblast on best practices for infection prevention and control in the clinical setting. USAID will continue to provide mentorship and advice to the trained staff as they implement new techniques and teach other staff to follow them.

This assistance was based on the Ministry of Health request and an assessment of infection prevention and control, conducted by USAID in July 2008 in Osh. The findings and recommendations of the assessment will shortly be presented to the Ministry officials to inform control and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other infections at the country's medical facilities.

***This assistance was delivered to Kyrgyzstan by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Since 1992, USAID has provided assistance valued at about \$400 million to support economic growth, agriculture, energy, health, and education systems and the development of democratic institutions in the Kyrgyz Republic.***

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